

Patricia Brown

Patricia Brown's advisory and non-executive work spans disciplines, sectors and geographies. The common thread is connecting: ideas, issues, places, people and ambition, focused mainly on achieving positive change in cities and successful economies.

As director of her niche consultancy, Central, Patricia works with a range of clients at senior level across the public and private sector, building on her understanding of the dynamics of cities and the inter-connection of business, public services and communities.

Central's client base and scope of work is diverse, covering a spectrum of issues – from transport, planning and urban realm to collaborative business development and economic vitality. A major feature of all work, whether physical developments or projects and campaigns, is that they are built on shared visions and strong partnerships and relationships, especially between the public and private sectors.

As well as client work, Patricia initiates dialogues and projects to inspire thinking and action. She created The Big Think on London, taken forward in partnership with law firm Mishcon de Reya, which helped promote an understanding of the changing face of the capital and the societal shift in living and working patterns.

As Deputy Chair of the Mayor's Design Advisory Group she has led its Good Growth Agenda, focused on helping shape positive change as London grows. She is currently advising Transport for London at leadership level on its strategic approach to design-led planning across its entire network and service delivery.

Patricia's work often centres on learning from experience elsewhere, so she regularly organises trips to inspire change. This includes regular visits to New York, where she supports both cities to learn from each other, and is helping set up a formal dialogue between the City of New York and the Greater London Authority. She also consults to, and teaches at, NYU's Shack Real Estate Institute, with particular reference to placemaking in development and is special adviser to Times Square Alliance.

From 1998-2008 she was Chief Executive of Central London Partnership (CLP), the public private partnership for central London. At CLP, Patricia was at the vanguard of developing the strong ethos of public private sector collaboration that has gone on to transform the approach to London's urban development.

From CLP's inception, she championed the need to improve urban quality, paving the way to some of the capital's most significant urban changes. She led the development of the UK's Business Improvement Districts movement and initiated Legible London, the capital's wayfinding system. Other major public realm initiatives include leading major studies such as Gehl Architect's Public Space Public Life study and the lobbying for the pedestrianisation of Trafalgar Square.

Immediately prior to CLP Patricia was Director of Information at London's then newly established inward investment agency. She was responsible for understanding of the needs of potential investors, and codifying and communicating London's offer, including the development of London's 'brand' for inward investment. She also brought a focus on creative industries, working on the development of a number of cultural and creative campaigns, including several major studies on design and media industries and establishing groups for cultural promotion.

Board Appointments

Patricia is Chair of the London Festival of Architecture, Deputy Chair of the Mayor's Design Advisory Group and Vice Chair of the British Property Federation's Development Committee. She also sits on Great Western Railway's Strategic Advisory Board and is on the Design Panel for the HighSpeed 2, a new national rail link.

In addition to her professional boards she is vice-chair of Newlyn Art Gallery and on the South East Regional Advisory Board of the National Trust. She was a Trustee of London International Festival of Theatre and Geffrye Museum until late 2013 and Vice Chair of Borough Market until December 2010.